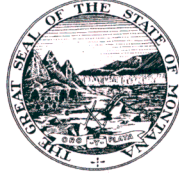


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

September 19, 2008

Ed Schafer, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

I have received a request for a Natural Disaster Determination (NDD) by the US Secretary of Agriculture from Golden Valley County Commissioners.

This county received substantially below normal precipitation during the winter and spring months of 2008 and little to none in early summer. The continued drought conditions have negatively impacted this year's crops. Golden Valley has not seen measurable precipitation in over a year and is experiencing another long drought cycle. In addition, incidents of hail, grasshoppers, wild fire and a late frost have caused conditions that threaten the agriculture community and the economy of Golden Valley.

Agricultural producers in these counties are facing severe economic losses. Grazing lands and livestock water have been severely impacted. Both the local and the agricultural economy are threatened by the continuing drought. The lack of moisture has resulted in extremely dry fuel conditions and very low water supplies which are contributing to wild land fires and fire danger.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger  
Ron de Yong, Department of Agriculture  
Brigadier General John Walsh, Department of Military Affairs  
Jan Traynor, Disaster & Emergency Services  
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency  
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation  
County Commissioners